

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT SCOTT M. CARNEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I speak today in honor of a fallen soldier. American hero MSG Scott M. Carney was killed in military operations on August 24, 2007. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Scott's wife Jeni and twin sons Jacob and Justin. I also express sincere sympathy and gratitude to his parents Geneva and John Carney and his brothers and sister.

An Ankeny, IA, resident, Scott was killed during a humvee rollover near Herat, Afghanistan. Scott was a member of the Iowa National Guard's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Division out of Boone, IA. Scott enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and had been a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team since 2004.

Scott will be fondly remembered and missed dearly. His wife described Scott by saying he "died doing what he loved, serving his country and protecting the freedom that we enjoy and providing the people of Afghanistan with the opportunity for freedom." I know I speak on behalf of all Iowans when I express gratitude for Scott's 18 years of military service. While I speak today with great sorrow, I also speak with great pride; pride in having soldiers like Scott, willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

A fellow soldier lent an apt description of Scott when he said "the Army was his life. He loved his family dearly and was a great family member. He was also part of the team." I ask all Americans to spend a moment today in prayerful gratitude for the family of a true American patriot, fallen hero MSG Scott M. Carney.

## MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On the night of August 9, 2007, three friends with developmental disabilities were verbally assaulted by four teens as they left a Cheektowaga, NY, restaurant. Two of the friends, a 22-year-old local man and his 19-year-old girlfriend, got into their vehicle and began to drive away. The teens continued to taunt the couple with derogatory names for the developmentally disabled. The four youths drove after the couple in two cars, reportedly swerving repeatedly at the victims' car and nearly hitting it. The disabled couple's car crashed as they tried to turn onto the Cheektowaga Thruway, causing significant damage to their vehicle. According to witnesses, the crash happened after the victim sped up to get away from the attackers' vehicles. The

teens sped away, but thanks to witnesses and restaurant surveillance tapes, the police were able to apprehend the teens. Three of them were charged with perpetrating a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ILLICIT GLOBAL SMALL ARMS  
TRADE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, illegally traded small arms and light weapons are cheap and readily available in many areas of the world. These weapons contribute to instability and violence in developing regions, creating fertile breeding grounds for rogue actors, undisciplined militias, and even terrorists. Confronting the threat of global terrorism requires a multifaceted approach which should include efforts to curb the illegal small arms trade while promoting programs that destroy surplus and obsolete weapons so they are taken out of circulation world-wide.

The M-16 and the AK-47, both automatic rifles, and shoulder launched surface-to-air missiles, called Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, are the most commonly traded weapons in the estimated \$1 billion a year illegal arms trade. I am not talking about legal and vetted government to government transfers; I am talking about the illicit arms trade that results in these weapons ending up, frequently, in the most lawless regions of the world and in places where they could be used to attack U.S. troops.

I have just returned from a trip to Africa, where I saw firsthand the devastating toll these weapons have had in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, as well as in northern Uganda. The eastern part of DRC, despite that country's successful election last summer, is rife with instability and small arms are the weapons of choice. I saw how they are used to destabilize communities and how they wreak havoc on innocent civilians. I visited a center for ex-combatants in Bunia, in the Ituri region of North Kivu, and saw the newly disarmed soldiers beginning the process of "re-entering" life without a weapon. The U.N. agency running this program had already removed the child soldiers but many of the former soldiers I saw looked exceedingly young. They couldn't have been much older than 18 or 20 and yet there they were receiving a second chance at life—a chance to live free of violence.

In Iraq, the illicit small arms trade supplies insurgent groups that continue to hamper U.S.-led efforts to stabilize and rebuild the country. In Afghanistan, illegally obtained small arms are used by warlords to attack U.S. troops and maintain areas of ref-

uge for terrorists. Much of the recent violence that has plunged Somalia into chaos has been carried out by extremists with automatic rifles. In Colombia, narcoterrorist paramilitary operations, including kidnappings and the murder of hostages, are fueled by a steady flow of small arms that are smuggled into the country. The influx of small arms into Darfur, much of which is in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, has helped perpetuate the conflict between the Sudanese government, associated Janjaweed militias, and the numerous rebel factions. Many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa—including Angola, and Liberia—have been profoundly impacted as they became victims to decades of brutal war perpetuated by these illegal arms flows.

I am pleased that the President requested, the House passed, and the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided, over \$44 million for the Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program in Fiscal Year 2008. This is a significant increase for a much-needed and very successful initiative. Indeed, since 2001, this program has helped 25 countries destroy over 1 million weapons that might have otherwise been used to create unrest and chaos.

The fight against global terrorism remains the highest national security priority of the United States. The illegal global trade and ensuing use of small arms and light weapons clearly destabilizes regions that extremists and terrorists can then use as safe havens in which to operate. The United States must do all it can to curtail the illegal small arms trade world-wide while it works to simultaneously eliminate the conditions that breed extremism and instability. The Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program is a critical component in that fight.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO SUN YET WONG

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO, is honoring two individuals, Dr. Paul G. Kaminski and Mr. Sun Yet Wong, who have made significant contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. They will be inducted as members of Pioneer Hall. This prestigious award bestowed to 71 people is the NRO's highest honor.

Of these two individuals, I am honored to know Mr. Wong and I wish to congratulate him on being selected by the NRO for the 2007 Class of Pioneers. The work of technological revolutionaries, such as Mr. Sun Yet Wong, has made significant and lasting contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance, and has set the stage for future advancements in the field. His efforts have helped advance technology by contributing to the effectiveness of